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Comptroller's Report Highlights Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has released a new report examining the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) and their role in meeting a statewide initiative to increase the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential by 2025.

TCATs are Tennessee's public colleges for technical skills training. Over 60 programs are offered at 27 locations across the state, ranging from practical nursing to automotive technology. Each TCAT is connected to local industry and program offerings vary by location, depending on what industries are present in the area.

Student outcomes across the TCAT system are noteworthy. In the 2014-15 school year, 82 percent of students completed their program, 87 percent secured a job related to their field of study, and 95 percent passed their licensure examinations.

Initiatives such as Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect are increasing enrollment at TCATs. Full-time equivalent enrollment is at its highest level in the past decade.

If the number of credentials awarded increases at about the same rate as enrollment, TCATs will meet their share of the Drive to 55 goal.

The report is complemented by an infographic explaining the relationship between TCATs and the Drive to 55 goal, as well as a map of TCAT main campuses and satellite locations.

The report and accompanying materials are available on the Comptroller's website at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/>

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